

Florence Township Council Regular Session 06/16/21

Florence, New Jersey
June 16, 2021

The Florence Township Council held a regular meeting on the above date in the Municipal Complex, 711 Broad Street, Florence, New Jersey. Members of the public were welcome to attend in person or to attend virtually via Zoom.

The meeting was called to order by Council President Garganio at 7:00 p.m. Council President Garganio led the Salute to the Flag.

The Opening Statement was read by the township clerk: This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate notice was published in the Burlington County Times on January 10, 2021; placed on the Township website, and given to the Trenton Times for information.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Upon roll call the following were found to be present:

Present: Frank Baldorossi, Paul Ostrander, Jerry Sandusky, David Woolston, Bruce Garganio

Also Present: Mayor Craig H. Wilkie; Stephen Fazekas, Township Administrator; Kelly Grant and Tom Hastie, Township Solicitors; Ted Wilkinson, Township Engineer; Nancy L. Erlston, Township Clerk; Jenise Silinsky, Deputy Township Clerk

Absent: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Closed Session of June 2, 2021

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Sandusky to approve the minutes as submitted. Voice vote – all ayes.

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Baldorossi to receive and file the following reports. Voice vote – all ayes.

- Township Clerk's Monthly Report for May 2021
- Tax Collector's Monthly Tax Report for May 2021
- Court Administrator's Monthly Report for May 2021

Motion of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to approve the **Treasurer's Bill List**.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

- YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Garganio
- NOES: None
- ABSENT: None

Unanimous vote – Motion carried

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

None.

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APPLICATIONS

- A. Social Affair Permit for Francis W. Robbins Post 194 American Legion Patriotic Day Celebration, 601 Broad Street, July 10, 2021 from 12:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m., with a rain date of July 11, 2021.

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Baldorossi to approve the application.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

- YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Garganio
 - NOES: None
 - ABSENT: None
- Unanimous vote – Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Council President Garganio opened the meeting up to the public at this time.

Don Kamienski, 10 McCay Drive, asked if anyone knows the starting and ending locations of the paving on Columbus Road due to begin the following week? Administrator Fazekas stated that he has not received anything official from the County but he believes that it will be in the area of the Liquor Barn to Route 130. He has a call in to the County Engineer and when he hears back from him it will be posted.

Seeing no one else wishing to be heard, it was the Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Sandusky to close the public portion of the meeting. Voice vote – All ayes.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-128

**Amending Resolution 2021-119 and Authorize Filing of 2022 NJDOT Municipal Aid –
Resurfacing Broad Street from West Front St. to 9th Street**

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-129

Approve Current Estimate No. 7 for Water Treatment Plant Phase 2

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-130

Authorize Filing a Municipal Alliance Grant

RESOLUTION NO. 131

Renew ABC License, Glory Days Ventures, LLC

RESOLUTION NO. 132

Renew ABC License, The Bungalow Corporation

RESOLUTION NO. 133

Renew ABC License Vito in Florence, LLC

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RESOLUTION NO. 134

Renew ABC License, Punam Corporation

RESOLUTION NO. 135

Non-Union Salary

RESOLUTION NO. 136

Authorizing Deposit of Unclaimed Funds

RESOLUTION NO. 137

Approve Change Order No. 3 for Water Treatment Plant Phase 2

RESOLUTION NO. 138

Authorize Amendment to Spending Plan for Development of Affordable Housing

RESOLUTION NO. 139

Amend Agreement with Project Freedom

RESOLUTION NO. 140

Amend Resolution 2021-12, Bikepath Grant

RESOLUTION NO. 141

Amend Resolution 2021-118, Ninth Street Improvements

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to approve Resolution Nos. 2021-128 through 2021-141.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Garganio

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Unanimous vote – Motion carried

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-115

**Adopting a Redevelopment Plan for Project Freedom Block 120, Lots 4.02 and 9
(2nd Read, Public Hearing & Adopt)**

Council President Garganio opened the meeting up to the public at this time.

Fred Sheetz, 12 Church Street, stated that the traffic situation in the community has gotten worse in the last 10 years that he has lived in Florence Township. With the addition of the Amazon warehouse, the ways to get in and out of the town have gotten congested and all that is left is Neck Road or Hornberger Avenue. Now with this project, it will cause the same problem in that area.

President Garganio explained that under the state regulations for COAH, rather than have a builder's remedy where there could be approximately 800 units ordered by the Judge, this is a way for us to do a smaller development of 70 units with less of an impact to the community.

Mayor Wilkie stated that this site was chosen because there is funding that comes in from Federal and State tax credits and there are grants that are applied for. And also because the location is in close proximity to the bus line, the light rail line, the grocery store and the other necessities for residents. Also,

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some other locations do not have water and sewer, which this site has so this is the best location to protect the whole community so we do not end up with a builder's remedy.

Seeing no one else wishing to be heard, Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Sandusky to close public hearing. Voice vote – all ayes.

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Sandusky to approve Ordinance No. 2021-115.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Garganio

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Unanimous vote – Motion carried

REPORTS OF COMMITEES, BOARDS AND OFFICERS

None at this time.

REPORTS: ADMINISTRATION

Mayor

Mayor Wilkie explained that this is the last week of school. After a very difficult and different school year, the 8th graders graduate Thursday and the high school seniors on Friday. Also, this will be the last Council meeting until July 7th and he wished everyone a Happy 4th of July.

Administrator

Administrator Fazekas stated that the County recycling program has been experiencing issues. We have been keeping the public up to date as best we can, putting the information on social media. The hours at the recycling center have also been extended on Wednesday evenings from 4-8pm and we have a special dumpster there for residents to drop off their recycling.

On behalf of Marty Eckert, we would like to thank the residents because we have been taking at least a 30-yard dumpster to the County daily. Residents have been coming down and those with pick up trucks have been kind enough to even help out their neighbors. The County is working on trying to resolve the issue.

A week and a half ago on a Sunday morning there was a power surge in the area of Olive Street that affected quite a few residences. As of late this afternoon our contact from PSE&G stated that they are still investigating the voltage complaint and we are advising the residents of the number that they need to call if they had any damage to appliances to file a claim with PSE&G.

The Covid test site is open every Wednesday from 9am-1pm at the old Public Works garage on Summer Street.

There will be concrete pours at night on West Front Street. A letter was sent notifying the residents on Woodlawn Avenue and the 1000 block of Front Street which included a contact phone number for any complaints in the middle of the night regarding lights, noise or anything. This will be handled immediately by someone that is on-site.

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Division of Engineering

Engineer Ted Wilkinson explained that Earle Asphalt started working on the Potts Mill Road project. They are putting the storm drains in this week and next week the earth work will get underway. They had a meeting with the residents of Varga Circle and the temporary fencing has been installed. He is asking for authorization to be able to move ahead with next year's municipal aid for the last phase of Potts Mill Road. We could go out to bid as soon as next week and get those going in July and be on schedule to possibly have all of Potts Mill Road completed by October.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Garganio asked for an update on the meetings with the County and NJDOT regarding the traffic issues. Administrator Fazekas stated that the new engineer that was hired at the County has been given the response that we received and they are going through it. From there we will be scheduling the meeting. We have had communication with NJ Transit on Delaware and Railroad Avenue intersection and we are still looking to schedule something.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Baldorossi said he spoke to residents about the possibility of having a Roebling garden, on the old Bucs property at the end of 3rd Avenue. Administrator Fazekas said that is something that he will look into.

Council President Garganio mentioned that the power surge that occurred around Olive Street affected his house. He said the Police and Fire Departments, as well as the Bordentown Fire Department did a great job running calls all morning and they were going in and out of houses. There is something wrong with that circuit. The issue needs to be identified and corrected..

BOARD OF HEALTH

None at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS

None at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Council President Garganio opened the meeting up to the public at this time.

Kristan Marter, 220 East Front Street, said that she met with Mayor Wilkie, Chief Boldizar and Tom Sahol back on February 13, 2019. Following the meeting, Mayor Wilkie shook her hand and it was agreed that they would work together. Since 2016 she has been requesting to participate with our town on multiple committees and or commissions and she has not been allowed to participate. Mayor Wilkie asked her to submit a resume which she recently did and she has a background in management, finance and construction and Mayor Wilkie is familiar with her experience in working with the county and state. Ms. Marter said the Mayor Wilkie has had her resume for almost 2 weeks and she if she is qualified for the position of 2nd Alternate for the Planning Board?

Mayor Wilkie stated that the only qualifications for that position is that you have to be a resident of the township. He stated that it would be inappropriate to appoint her to the Planning Board at this time as she is actively running for Council.

Seeing no one else wishing to be heard, motion was made by Ostrander, seconded by Sandusky to close the public comment portion of the meeting. Voice vote – All ayes.

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Motion of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to adjourn to Closed Session at 7:29 p.m. where no action will be taken. Voice vote – all ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

Council returned to the Regular meeting at 7:49 p.m. No action was taken. Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Baldorossi to adjourn. Voice vote – all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston, RMC
Township Clerk
/js